

ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION
THE MINIATURE OLYMPICS

The Physical Educator edited by Phi Epsilon Kappa Fraternity at Indianapolis publishes an article by Harry Oxford, an instructor at the Wheeling Country Day School, Mc Lean, Virginia.

We give here some extracts to our readers, convinced they will find the utmost interest in the experience of the author.

"... It is my feeling that while the mind of young children are being taught to read and write, they should also be introduced to a good, sound, physical education program...

... I would like to share parts of my program with other physical education teachers on the elementary school level.

Every year we hold a miniature Olympic Games. The competitors are boys in the first, second, and third grades. They compete within their own grade level. Each boy in the first and second grades competes individually and is allowed to enter three events only. No more than five or six boys are allowed in any one event. You may find that some boys will not place in any event, therefore, its a good practice to keep a list of these boys and put them in an event of just four boys. That way, each boy will win at least one ribbon, as we have ribbons for the first four places.

The third grade competes individually, but they also represent a country. There are three or four boys representing a country of their choice. In addition to competing, the boys are required to look up the history of the Olympics, acquire pertinent facts, and some information concerning the country they represent. These are all read aloud by the author on our first rainy day and then posted on our physical education bulletin board. This research, or intellectual approach, seems to work very well, as it is a tremendous boost to the boy who does well in the classroom but is not particularly proficient in athletic skills. All these short essay papers are required before the Olympics begin.

During a regular Olympic year, boys are assigned as reporters. They are responsible for bringing in clippings from the papers or magazines...

... The boys who are not participating cheer from the side as spectators. They are also assigned various officiating duties...

... At the conclusion of the Olympics, we present the ribbons, which are made by the boys during their art period. Our

school colors are green and white so the neck ribbons are green and white. The medal discs are gold (1st), silver (2nd), green (3rd), and white (4th).

...The medals are presented before the boys leave for Thanksgiving holidays... Each boy's name appears on the bulletin board.

...This is a very appealing activity. We try to include all the teachers and the principal. It requires a little planning the first year, but after that it will require very little time."